



Pedro Nava

Assemblymember

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



www.asm.ca.gov/nava

AUGUST 2008

Nava Works with District Attorneys to Promote Sex Crime Victims & Witness Protection Act

Bill Signed by Governor

SACRAMENTO – State Assemblymember Pedro Nava announced that AB 2410-The Sex Crime Victims & Witness Protection Act of 2008, written to protect victims, witnesses, and our communities from sexually violent predators was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

AB 2410 prohibits disclosure to the attacker, of a victim's name, phone number and address, during a civil commitment proceeding for a sexually violent predator. Without this basic level of privacy, victims are left vulnerable.

"I am pleased the Governor signed my legislation," said Nava. "The Sex Crime Victims & Witness Protection Act provides important protections to victims, their families and communities from further harm by sexually violent predators. I want to thank District Attorneys across the state for their assistance in providing letters and testimony in support of AB 2410."

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INSIDE: Women in Leadership Breakfast

At left, Susan Jordan, welcomes Assemblymember Fiona Ma (right) to Santa Barbara. Full story on page 2.

Assemblymember Nava and State Controller John Chiang Host Workshop Helping Seniors obtain Homeowner and Renter Tax Refunds-Maximum Refund between \$473 to \$348

Over 900 refund request forms provided to area seniors. October 15 Deadline.

Santa Barbara – Assemblymember Pedro Nava held a workshop to assist seniors in filling out their tax forms for the California Homeowner and Renter Property Tax Assistance Program on Saturday, July 26, 2008, at the Goleta Valley Community Center in Old Town Goleta. The workshop included staff from the Assemblymember's office, and the office of State Controller John Chiang, including Spanish speakers.

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Santa Barbara District Director, Caroline Vance (standing) and other volunteers assist seniors with their property tax assistance forms.

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A number of sexually violent predators have recently been released around the state, causing concern for our communities. Assemblymember Nava's measure will give prosecutors another tool to protect our communities as well as provide enhanced protections for victims and witnesses of these heinous crimes.

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"The Homeowner and Renter Property Tax Assistance Program is set up to provide senior citizens and the disabled a refund based on the property taxes they have paid," said Nava. "I wanted to make sure that all of our senior citizens were aware of this program and receive any assistance they may need to fill out these forms. We know in these tough economic times, every bit helps. My office has been able to provide over 900 area seniors with refund forms."

The Franchise Tax Board offers the Senior Citizen Property Tax Assistance Program annually for seniors over the age of 62 whose annual income is less than \$44,096. The program can provide a maximum refund amount of \$473 a year for homeowners and up to \$348 for renters.

In August, staff from Assemblymember Nava's office visited Friendship Manor, a senior living community in Isla Vista, and helped 25 residents fill out their forms. To find out if you or a family member qualify, or to receive a tax form, please call Assemblymember Nava's office at 805-564-1649. The tax forms are also available by visiting www.ftb.ca.gov.

Assemblymember Nava Hosts Women in Leadership Breakfast Featuring Majority Whip Assemblywoman Fiona Ma

Santa Barbara - On August 1 at the Moby Dick Restaurant on the Santa Barbara Wharf, Assemblymember Nava and former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Susan Rose hosted the first **Women in Leadership Breakfast** to introduce his colleague and friend Assemblywoman Fiona Ma to the Santa Barbara community. The 31 attendees at the breakfast included representatives from public safety, city and county government, education, business, environment, and non profit sector.



(from left to right) Former Santa Barbara Supervisor Susan Rose, California Coastal Protection Network Director, Susan Jordan, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, and Assemblymember Pedro Nava at the Women in Leadership Breakfast.

Assemblywoman Ma, a former San Francisco Supervisor, was introduced by California Coastal Protection Network Director Susan Jordan and shared some of her experiences as the Majority Whip including her work to protect children from dangerous chemicals and pesticides, helping California's working families improve their lives and increasing healthcare access for all Californians.

Following Assemblywoman Ma's remarks, a lively question and answer period ensued where she reflected on her own experience as a woman running for elected office and had the opportunity to hear from Santa Barbara women leaders.

"This get-together was a resounding success and the first of many that are planned. I want to thank Susan Rose, Assemblywoman Ma, and everyone who attended," said Assemblymember Nava.

California Mortgage & Housing Crisis Addressed at Hearing

Hearing Held by Assembly Banking & Finance Committee on "The Mortgage Crisis Today: Better or Worse?"



Sacramento – Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Assembly Banking & Finance Committee held a hearing in Sacramento to investigate the mortgage and housing crisis affecting California.

The informational hearing focused on the current crisis in the mortgage loan and housing markets and its devastating impacts on California families.

"This hearing provided a clearer picture of where we are in the current crisis, and what needs to be done moving forward," said Assemblymember Pedro Nava. "California families impacted by the crisis in the mortgage loan and housing markets need appropriate action now and for the future so that we can prevent it from happening again."

The Committee heard from federal and state regulators such as the Federal Reserve Board and the Department of Real Estate and consumer advocates like the Center for Responsible Lending and the California Consumers Union regarding the status of the current mortgage and housing crisis, what has been done so far and what action should be taken in the future by the State of California moving forward. Additionally, testimony was presented regarding the Truth in Lending Act, a federal regulation, which provides consumer safeguards for mortgage and credit transactions by requiring lenders to provide specific written disclosure for credit costs, finance charges and other fees, as well as resolving errors on certain types of credit accounts.

As a result of today's hearing, the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee will study all the information provided and work with the stakeholders to decide how California can best move forward to address the current crisis to lessen the detrimental impact on hundreds of thousands of California families.

GAP FIRE WRAP-UP

Goleta – The human-caused fire started on Tuesday, July 1, in the Lizard's Mouth area along West Camino Cielo and burned 9,443 acres, destroying 4 outbuildings burning mature (50-55 year old) chaparral in an area not burned since the 1955 Refugio Fire. Fire officials declared the Gap Fire fully contained on Monday, July 28 at 6 pm. At the fire's peak, total personnel assigned was 1,387, including 20 CalFire Engines, 15 State Office of Emergency Services (OES) Engines, 1 OES water tender, 22 CalFire handcrews, 1 OES communication support unit, 45 CalFire Overhead personnel, 4 National Guard or Military Helicopters and 2 California National Guard Dozers.



Assemblymember Nava said, "I would like to thank the heroic efforts of the state and local firefighters whose efforts kept the homes of many Goletans safe during the Gap Fire and the Santa Barbara County Red Cross for reacting to the needs of evacuees. Our community is safer and stronger because of you." *Continued on page 4, "Gap Fire"*

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger addresses public during a news conference. Assemblymember Nava (left) introduced disaster relief legislation for victims of the Gap Fire.

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On July 3, Assemblymember Nava toured the command center, then located at the Earl Warren Showgrounds with OES Assistant Chief Ishmael Messer, and announced at a press conference that the Governor had declared a State of Emergency for the County of Santa Barbara and that he had initiated the process to introduce AB 995 disaster relief legislation for victims of the Santa Barbara County Gap Fire.

Assemblymember Nava also visited the evacuation center set up by the Santa Barbara County Chapter of the American Red Cross at San Marcos High School and witnessed first hand the resources available for families and individuals displaced by the fire. In addition to beds, food and water, mental health services were available to assist those coping with the trauma of possibly losing their home. 2,811 residences were threatened during the course of the Gap Fire.

First 5 Ventura County and Ventura City Corps Join Assemblymember Nava in Ventura Fair Parade

Ventura - Assemblymember Pedro Nava, First 5 and Ventura City Corps walked the parade route for the opening of the Ventura County Fair. First 5 provides early childhood services for families throughout Ventura County. Ventura City Corps is a youth development organization which nurtures personal initiative, fosters leadership development, and teaches civic responsibility.



For more information on these two organizations please call my Ventura County District Office at (805) 483-9808.

Front Row: Oxnard and Ventura City Corps youth carry banners during parade. Back Row: First 5 families walk along the parade route.

Santa Barbara County Business Resource EXPO to be held on Friday, September 26th 8 a.m. to Noon



Friday, September 26, 2008

8:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon

Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center • 1118 East Cabrillo Boulevard • Santa Barbara, CA

Bringing together public and private resources to the Santa Barbara County business community, Assemblymember Nava is partnering with the California Small Business Association, the Santa Barbara Region, Goleta Valley, Carpinteria Valley and the Solvang Chambers of Commerce to sponsor a **Business Resource EXPO on Friday, September 26, 2008 at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center, 1118 East Cabrillo Blvd., from 8 a.m. to Noon.** The public is

invited to come learn how to start their own business or how to become qualified to do business with federal, state and local government. Many public and private agencies will be on hand to provide information and resources. For more information please call (805) 483-9808.

Assemblymember Nava and the Ocean Protection Council Signal Support for Important Federal Environmental Regulations

Nava is the Assembly representative to the Ocean Protection Council

Sacramento - Assemblymember Nava along with other members of the Ocean Protection Council recently agreed to support House Resolution 21 the Oceans Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21st Century. HR 21, which will be before the United States Congress in the coming year, is a comprehensive, national oceans policy that establishes regional ocean partnerships, codifies the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration into law, and creates a national ocean trust fund that will allow government agencies at all levels to better solve the problems facing our oceans and coasts.

"Our oceans are a precious resource that is in grave danger from pollution, irresponsible development, and other impacts from human activities," said Assemblymember Nava. "The Ocean Protection Council does valuable work and helps to ensure that our state does everything it can to protect our coastal and marine ecosystems." Establishing a national policy on ocean governance has been recommended by both the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The policy in H.R. 21 will focus federal actions to protect and conserve ocean and coastal ecosystems. The resolution will also establish a stakeholder advisory group and a committee on ocean policy will provide an important framework for the OPC to actively engage federal agencies to protect California's ocean and coastal resources.



The mission of the California Ocean Protection Council is to ensure that California maintains healthy, resilient, and productive ocean and coastal ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. Assemblymember Nava has worked with other members of the OPC on such issues as reducing ocean debris, encouraging low impact development that improves coastal water quality, Salmon and Steelhead restoration plans, reducing the impact of coastal power plants on coastal ecosystems, and allocated funding for important research projects on ocean issues.

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